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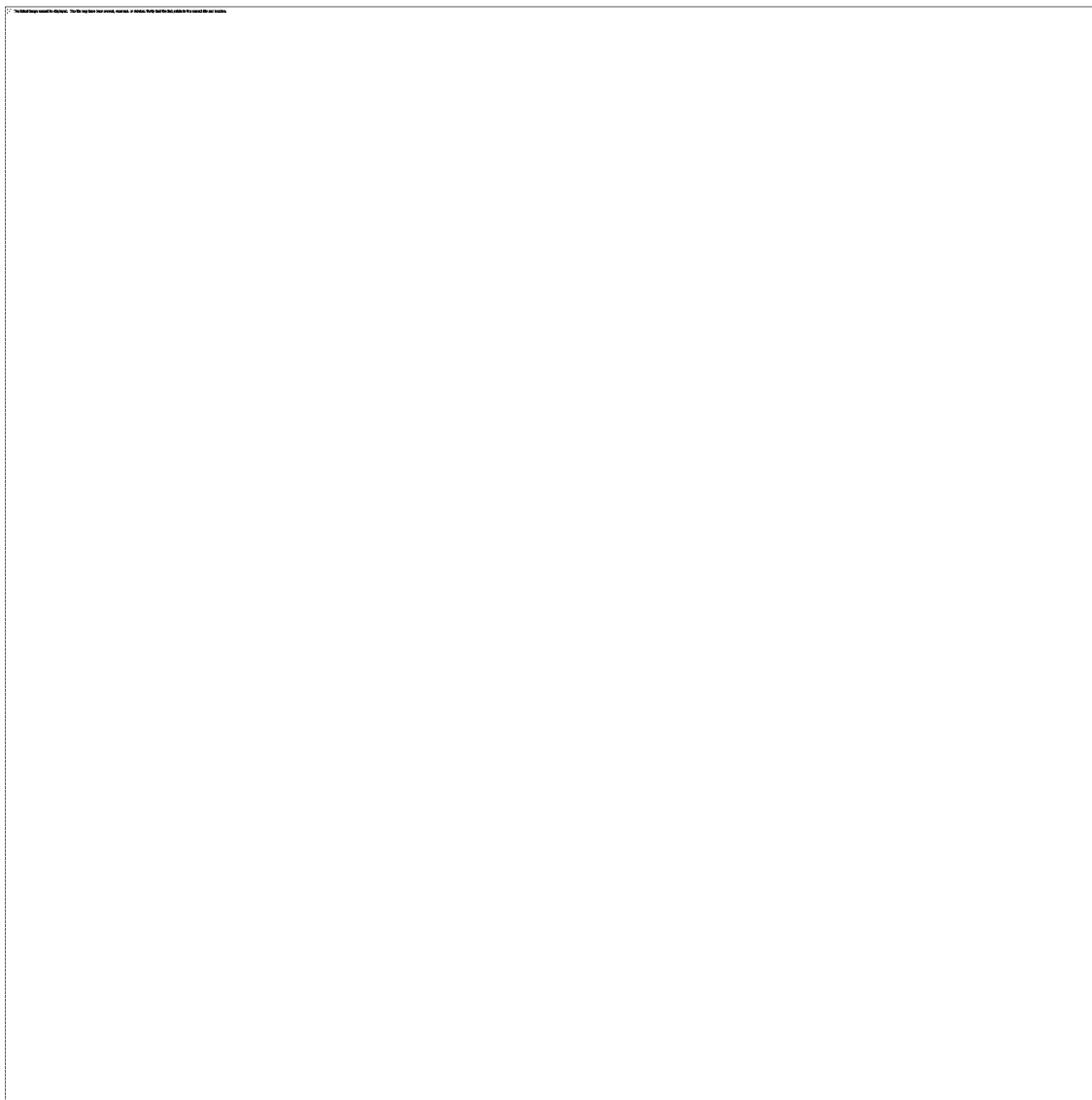
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**From:** Louisiana Environmental Action Network [contact@leanweb.org]  
**Sent:** 9/14/2021 1:29:39 PM  
**To:** Balandran, Olivia-R [balandran.olivia-r@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Ethylene Oxide, Updated Info. and EPA Roundtable Continues

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09/14/21

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**Ethylene Oxide August 2018 - August 2021 by LEAN  
Technical Advisor Wilma Subra**

click title above for full update, excerpt below:

Ethylene Oxide is a Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) that is a flammable, colorless gas used to make other chemicals that are used in making a range of products, including antifreeze, textiles, plastics, detergents and adhesives.

Ethylene Oxide is carcinogenic in humans if inhaled, and linked to a variety of other negative health impacts.

### **Facilities Releasing Ethylene Oxide Into the Air**

Based on the 2016 EPA Toxic Release Inventory, there were 118 industrial facilities in the US releasing Ethylene Oxide into the air in the United States. **Louisiana has 13 facilities that release air emissions of Ethylene Oxide.**

Three of the top five facilities in the United States, releasing the largest quantities of Ethylene Oxide into the air, are located in Louisiana: Union Carbide ranking #2, BASF Corp. ranking #4 and Sasol Chemicals ranking #5. The other two top five ranked facilities in the US are located in Texas: Indorama Ventures (formerly Huntsman Petrochemical) in Port Neches, ranking #1 and Eastman Chemical in Longview, ranking #3. Texas has a total of 25 industrial facilities releasing Ethylene Oxide into the air.

### **Facilities Releasing Ethylene Oxide into the Air in Louisiana**

Of the 13 industrial facilities releasing Ethylene Oxide into the air in Louisiana, 11 industrial facilities are located along the Mississippi River Industrial Corridor, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Six of the facilities are located in Iberville Parish, three in Ascension Parish and one each in St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Charles Parish. The remaining two industrial facilities are located in Calcasieu Parish, in southwest Louisiana, near the Texas border.

### **EPA Current Activities Related to Ethylene Oxide Air Emissions and Community Educational Outreach**

On October 15, 2020, EPA Region 6 requested assistance from the states of Louisiana and Texas in gathering the most current information on Ethylene Oxide high priority emitting facilities and to assist with the update of technical assessments.

EPA Region 6 then obtained updated facility emissions and control information on Ethylene Oxide from the states of Louisiana and Texas. Based on the 2018 emission inventory data, EPA updated the estimated inhalation public health risk from Ethylene Oxide in the communities near the Ethylene Oxide releasing facilities. EPA compared the estimated inhalation public health risk from Ethylene Oxide to the 100 in 1 million individuals Level of Concern for 2014 and 2018.

Based on the 2014 risk levels, the eight high risk facilities in Louisiana and Texas had risk levels ranging from 291 in 1 million individuals at Shell Technology in Houston to 2,539 in 1 million individuals at BCP Ingredients in St. Gabriel, all over 100 in 1 million risk levels. Based on emissions recalculations and emission reduction activities, the 2018 risk levels for all of the high priority facilities except Shell Technology, Taminco (Eastman) and BCP Ingredients, still exceeded the EPA Level of Concern of 100 in 1 million individuals. The facilities that still exceeded the 100 in 1 million individuals risk level ranged from 300 in 1 million individuals at Sasol and Eastman Chemical to 2,000 in 1 million individuals for the Indorama (Huntsman) facility in Port Neches.

#### **Maximum Individual Cancer Risk in 2014 versus 2018 Due to Ethylene Oxide Released by Industrial Facilities**

<b>Industrial Facility</b>	<b>2014 Cancer Risk</b>	<b>2018 Cancer Risk</b>
Indorama, Port Neches, TX	1,456 per million	2,000 per million
Union Carbide, Taft, LA*	1,680 per million	700 per million

Evonik Material, Reserve, LA*	831 per million	600 per million
Eastman Chemicals, Longview, TX	1,355 per million	300 per million
Sasol Chemicals, Mossville, LA*	841 per million	300 per million
Shell Technology, Houston, TX	291 per million	40 per million
Taminco (Eastman), St. Gabriel, LA	1,330 per million	30 per million
BCP Ingredient, St. Gabriel, LA	2,539 per million	10 per million

**EPA Level of Concern: 100 in 1 million**

\*facilities in LA still exceeding EPA Level of Concern

**Click here to read the full update of Ethylene Oxide information related to Louisiana by LEAN Technical Advisor Wilma Subra.**

In May of 2021, the EPA Office of Inspector General published the results of an audit examining EPA's response to updated cancer risk values for Ethylene Oxide and Chloroprene. EPA had not incorporated the new risk values into residual risk and technology reviews for Ethylene Oxide and Chloroprene. Without new residual risk and technology reviews or emission standards, EPA may not be able to achieve its environmental justice goals for protection of overburdened minority and low-income communities.

The EPA Inspector General recommended EPA conduct new Residual Risk and Technology reviews for Ethylene Oxide and Chloroprene. The EPA Inspector General also reported EPA had delayed and should conduct community educational outreach activities. Meetings have been conducted to discuss ethylene oxide emissions in the Louisiana communities of St Gabriel, Hahnville and Reserve.

The final session related to Louisiana will discuss Sasol Chemicals in Mossville, **Thursday Sept. 30, 2021**. For more info: <https://www.epa.gov/eha-permitting/site-specific-information-ethylene-oxide-elo-sasol-chemicals-usa-lake-charles>

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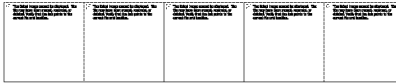
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